

Appl. No. 09/549,559
Amdt. Dated May 18, 2004
Reply to Office action of March 18, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P11914-US1
EUS/J/P/04-1096

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Amendments

The Applicants have cancelled claims 1-29 and added claims 30-34. Accordingly, claims 30-34 are now pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 15-19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

The Applicants have rewritten claim 15 as new independent claim 30, including the limitations of claim 1 and intervening claims 2, 3 and 5. The Applicants have also rewritten claim 16 as new independent claim 31, including the limitations of claim 1 and intervening claims 2, 3 and 5. The Applicants have also added new claims 32-34, which are identical to the previous claims 17-19 dependent from claim 15, now dependent from new claim 30. Accordingly, new claims 30-34 are allowable.

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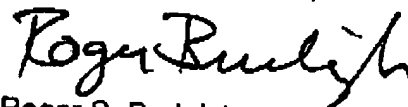
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EUS/J/P/04-1098

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 30-34.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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